

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 13649 260648Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /053 W
-----114280 260855Z /11

R 251640Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5069
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 13649

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, NI, US, OVIP (PRESIDENT CARTER)
SUBJECT: RESCHEDULING OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT

REF: LAGOS 13042

1. DR. BOLAJI AKINYEMI, DIRECTOR OF NIGERIAN INSTITUTE
FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (NIIA), INFORMED POLCOUNS
ON NOVEMBER 24 THAT SOME HIGH FMG OFFICIALS WERE BECOMING
INCREASINGLY APPREHENSIVE THAT WASHINGTON WOULD SOON

ANNOUNCE RESCHEDULED EUROPEAN PORTION OF PRESIDENT
CARTER'S TRIP BUT DELAY ANNOUNCEMENT OF REMAINDER OF TRIP
TO LATER DATE. IN SUCH AN EVENT, PUBLIC AND PRESS WOULD
JUMP TO WRONG CONCLUSIONS AND FMG'S US/NIGERIAN
POLICIES WOULD COME UNDER HEAVY ATTACK.

2. AKINYEMI NOTED THAT HE PERSONALLY DOES NOT BELIEVE
NIGERIA'S FOREIGN POLICY HAS DEPARTED FROM ITS NONALIGNED
COURSE BUT PUBLIC GENERALLY PERCEIVES THE GOVERNMENT AS
HAVING TILTED TO FAR IN FAVOR OF WEST. HE URGED THAT
WHITE HOUSE TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT WHEN RELEASING ANNOUNCE-
MENT OF FORTHCOMING TRIPS.

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 13649 260648Z

3. COMMENT: NIIA IS QUASIGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION WITH
STAFF MEMBERS SHUTTLE BETWEEN ASSIGNMENTS IN MEA AND
INSTITUTE. AKINYEMI HIMSELF IS CLOSE TO FMG OFFICIALS
(HE PARTICIPATED IN OBASANJO'S U.S. VISIT) AND IS RUMORED
TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TEXTS OF MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY SPEECHES.
SINCE APPEARANCE OF DAILY TIMES EDITORIAL QUOTED REFTTEL, SEVERAL
PAPERS HAVE PUBLISHED INCREASINGLY CRITICAL EDITORIALS

AND BYLINED ARTICLES IMPLYING THAT ENERGY PROGRAM IS
NOT REAL REASON FOR POSTPONEMENT OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT.
ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION POLCOUNS HAS BEEN ASKED WHY TRIP
NEEDED TO BE POSTPONED AT TIME CONGRESS WENT OUT ON TWO
WEEK RECESS.

4. WE BELIEVE AKENYEMI IS RIGHT THAT PRESS REACTIONS WILL BE
HIGHLY CRITICAL IF WASHINGTON ANNOUNCES A NEW SCHEDULE FOR THE
EUROPEAN PORTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP BUT DOES NOT INDICATE
WHEN THE PRESIDENT WILL VISIT NIGERIA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: RESCHEDULING OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT
TAGS: PORG, OVIP, NI, US, (CARTER, JIMMY)
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